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where the corresponding figures are 82.7, 76.4, and 74.3, respectively. The figures for counties vary from 19.6 paupers per 1000 in Dukes, and 25.6 in Norfolk up to 53.7 in Bristol. The average for the state is 36.6 paupers per 1000 inhabitants. It is to be noted that in all these calculations the pauper statistics of 1898-99 are compared with the population for 1895, so that the absolute numbers are in most cases excessively high.

The third important innovation is in the third table of the report which concerns the treatment of the various classes of paupers in each city and town. In the *Twentieth Report* of the Board the number of children under 16, the number of idiotic persons and of insane persons were given, with the proportion of children cared for in almshouses. In the new report the total number of paupers is first divided into the sane and the mentally defective, the former class being sub-divided into those under and over 16, the latter into the insane and the idiotic. Under each of the first two sub-classes the number of persons cared for in almshouses and in other institutions, those relieved in their own homes, and those boarded in other private families, is given. The mentally defective are divided into those cared for in almshouses, those treated in hospitals, asylums, and schools for the feeble-minded, and those boarded in private families. The general policy of each city and town in dealing with its pauper population is thus shown in a clear and comprehensive manner.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

ROUND NUMBERS.

The tendency of the maxima in any series of estimated numbers to collect about even numbers, or multiples of ten, or any round numbers which catch the attention of the unscientific observer has been pointed out in many instances. It shows itself most clearly perhaps in estimates of the ages of illiterate populations where maxima are always found at the ten-year periods. Dr. Edward D. Jones brought out some interesting points of this sort in connection with commercial statistics in these *Publications* for 1896 in a paper on "Round Numbers in Wages and Prices."

Some such effect of the "personal equation" may be noted in the following table which is taken from Dr. Francis H. Herrick's invaluable monograph on "The American Lobster," published by the U. S. Fish Commission in the *Bulletin* for 1895. The figures showing the number of eggs in lobsters of various sizes are omitted, the numbers of lobsters of various sizes examined being alone of interest in this connection as showing the large apparent excess of lobsters whose length was in even inches over those whose length was in even half-inches, and the excess of the latter over the animals of intermediate size.

TABLE 15. (PAGE 51, "THE AMERICAN LOBSTER.")

Length of Lobster.	Number of Lobsters Examined.	Length of Lobster.	Number of Lobsters Examined.
<i>Inches.</i>		<i>Inches.</i>	
8	6	12 3-4	12
8 1-4	2	13	321
8 1-2	3	13 1-4	5
8 3-4	3	13 1-2	146
9	143	13 3-4	2
9 1-4	35	14	426
9 1-2	241	14 1-2	90
9 3-4	55	15	280
10	514	15 1-4	1
10 1-4	61	15 1-2	45
10 1-2	532	15 3-4	3
10 3-4	45	16	103
11	568	16 1-4	1
11 1-4	43	16 1-2	13
11 1-2	307	17	30
11 3-4	11	17 1-2	3
12	414	18	7
12 1-4	8	19	4
12 1-2	156		

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

THE FATALITY OF CERTAIN DISEASES.

The following is taken from the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 26, 1900:—

In consequence of the enactment of improved laws and regulations, and the better enforcement of laws which had long existed but had